

REMARKS

The indication that claims 12, 13, 15 and 18 - 20 are allowed, is acknowledged.

By the present amendment, the claims under rejection, apparently claims 16, 17 and 21, have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof so that only allowed claims remain in this application, and applicants request issuance of a notice of allowance.

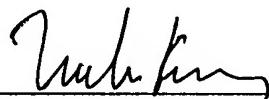
As to the rejection of claim 16 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph and the rejection of claims 16 and 17 over the cited art, it is noted that no statement of ground of rejection appears with respect to claim 21, but in order to expedite issuance of this application, the rejections have been obviated by the cancellation of claims 16, 17 and 21 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof.

For the foregoing reasons, applicants submit that this application should now be in condition for allowance and issuance of a notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case: 500.39750VX1), and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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